

St. Joseph's Family Activities



Pentecost Sunday 23rd – 29th May 2021

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“They were all filled with the Holy Spirit”

Pentecost (meaning fifty in Greek) was the fiftieth day after the second day of Passover. The Jewish feast celebrated the gift of the Law at Sinai after their freedom from slavery (which was celebrated at Passover) and becoming God's holy people. The parallels in Christianity are interesting; after we are freed from sin by Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension, Pentecost marks the beginning of the Church, the community of God's holy people in Christ.

On the Monday after Easter, the Church celebrates that Mary is the mother of the Church. Mary has many titles and this one, reflecting her motherhood of us all, is a lovely one to focus on in the family.

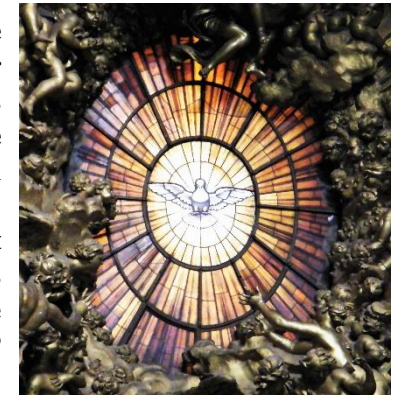
Please do send in photos of anything that you have done.

As ever, if you wish to see past copies of these sheets, please go to <https://www.stjosephsmalvern.org/j/> and then click on the dropdown box for past editions.

There are Four Dimensions of our Faith and the activities all reflect one or more of each of these dimensions.

Come Holy Spirit

Pentecost was always one of the biggest feasts in the Church after Easter and Christmas, and it marks the end of the Easter season. We always make a big effort with Christmas and to a lesser extent, Easter (which is actually the most important feast on the Church's year). Why not plan to celebrate Pentecost big time this year?



The family is the “domestic Church” and if we are not able to gather in person with the parish, it's a good idea to set aside special times to pray with the family, even if it is just 10 minutes two or three times a week. These are graced moments. Light a candle and have a few moments' silence and remind everyone that they are in the presence of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These times are very precious and even if it is just a few minutes after a meal, it can be a fruitful time. Don't bite off more than you can chew! Start with just a few moments and build up the scope and variety of prayers slowly. Give everyone the opportunity to voice their own prayers as well as reciting traditional prayers.

**Speaking/Learning the faith
(which the Church calls
“professing the faith”)**

**Living it (in Christ) – i.e. the
choices we make in
everyday life**

**Celebrating it in the liturgy
and the sacraments**

Christian prayer.

Reading for Pentecost Sunday

First reading Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, they had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished. 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome – Jews and proselytes alike – Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The word of the Lord
R/: ***Thanks be to God***

Family discussion on the reading

- ✠ Light a candle
- ✠ Make the Sign of the Cross
- ✠ Someone read the Gospel slowly

Q: What did everyone gathered in the room hear? (A: Sound of wind.)

Q: What seemed to appear on the heads of all the Apostles? (A: Flames/tongues of fire.)

Q: What were the sound of wind and flames signs of? (A: The Holy Spirit.)

Q: What was the effect of the Holy Spirit on the disciples? (A: They began to speak different languages.)

Q: What why did the disciples need to speak different languages”? (A: because they were going to go all over the world teaching about Jesus.)

Q: What were the disciples talking about in these different languages? (A: The marvels of God.)

Q: What does the passage mean when it says, “the marvels of God”? (A: The wonderful things He has done.)

Q: What are the wonderful things that God has done”? (A: Open... e.g., creation, created you and me, the Father sent Jesus who died on the Cross and rose again, so that we can go to heaven and be with Jesus and His Father.... Miracles, He helps us in our day to day lives....)

Either someone write down all these suggestions, or each family member writes down a suggestion on a piece of paper and they are put up somewhere, or may be write down these suggestions on a large piece of paper to put up. Finish with this verse from today's Psalm.

**Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
How many are your works, O Lord!
The earth is full of your riches.**

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Jesús está vivo

Bonum est Deus

Jezus stierf en
stond weer op

Jesús est mort et
est ressuscité

Yesu ngwa
moyo

Jezus jest
Panem

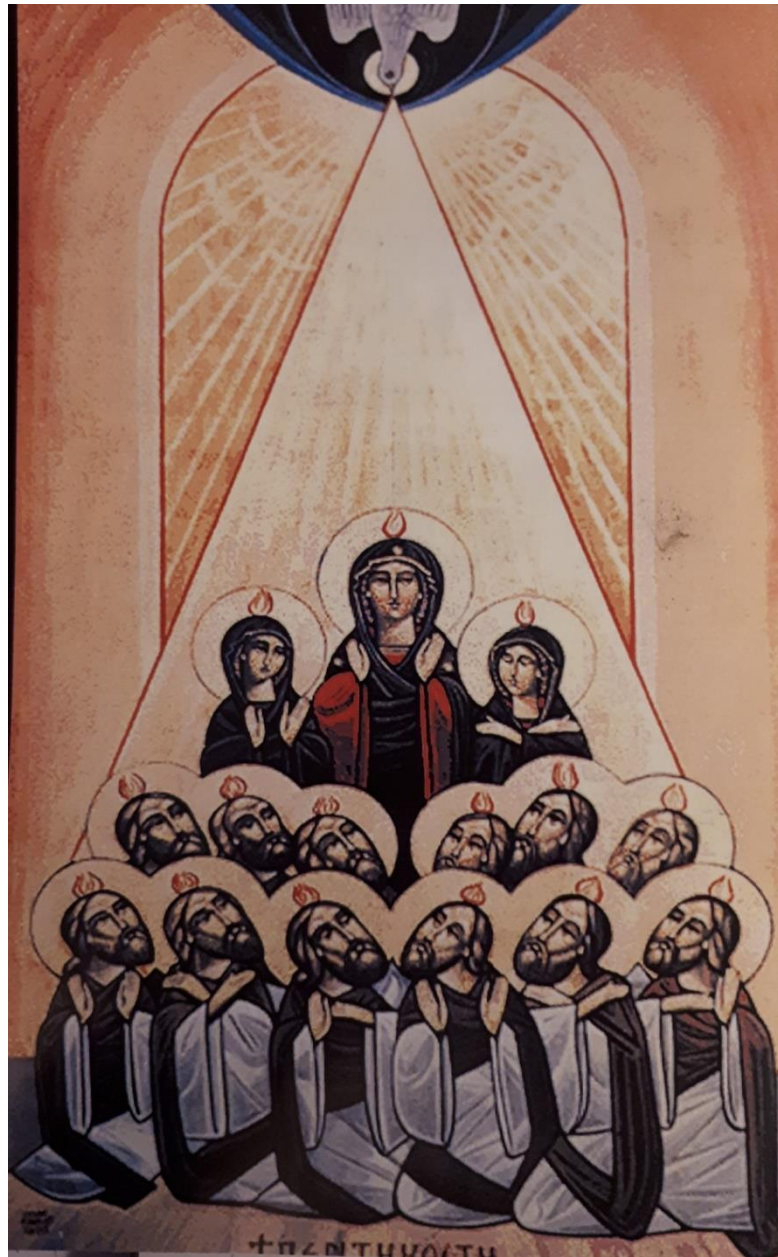
Jumala loi
maaliman

ang Banal na
Espiritu ay
dumating

Gesu è il figlio
di dio

Cut out these speech bubbles with the Good News of salvation in different languages and stick on the picture on the next page. Then see if you can find out what each of the different bubbles say. You may want to cut out the picture and stick on a larger page to give space for all the speech bubbles.

Coptic icon of Pentecost Used in the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church



Notice that Mary is at the centre as she was the first to be filled with the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation. She is also called the mother of the Church as she was present both at the birth of Jesus (of course!) and at the birth of the Church. The Apostles are all looking up and are open to the coming of the Holy Spirit. The wonderful light and rays, represents the power of God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Notice the different hand positions, some are just “open”, some are “listening,” and others have their hands crossed reflectively. Mary looks straight at us, indicating that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will hear the message of her Son, through the Apostles.

The Apostles' Creed

What did the Apostles teach in those early days? We know because very quickly the set of baptismal promises were set out as the core beliefs and this is what we stand up and proclaim every Sunday.

Cut up the pieces of the Creed on the right and put in the right order. How quickly can you do this?

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,*
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

the Father almighty,
was crucified, died and was buried;
the forgiveness of sins,
I believe in God,
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
Creator of heaven and earth,
the resurrection of the body,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
he descended into hell;
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
and life everlasting. Amen he ascended into heaven,
born of the Virgin Mary,
the communion of saints,
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

24th May, Mary, the Mother of the Church

We recognise that Mary is the mother of the Church for various reasons:

1. She is the mother of Jesus Christ and the Church is His Body, so she is the mother of the "Body of Christ", the Church.
2. At the foot of the cross, Jesus gave His mother to John one of the disciples to be his mother and therefore the mother of all the disciples and the mother of all disciples (that means us).
3. Mary was with the disciples at Pentecost and was there when the Church was "born" through the coming of the Holy Spirit.

As a mother, she watches over the Church and prays for us. Like at Cana, when she noticed that the wine was running out, she turns to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ and asks Him to help us.

If the family does not know this prayer, it's a beautiful one to learn by heart as in it we turn to Mary, our mother and ask for her prayers:

Salve Regina

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve:

to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this vale of
tears.

Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus,
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin
Mary!

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ. Amen.

Explanation:

We cry out to Mary as she is both our mother and the queen of heaven. In many cultures throughout history, it was the king's mother who was queen not his wife, and as queen, she was mother of the country.

We are Eve's banished children because we are sinners.

She is an advocate; she turns to her Son and pleads on our behalf when we need help and asks Him to help us.

Our "exile" is our time on earth, and we hope that she will show us her Son the fruit of her womb who is Jesus of course.

Clement = merciful, we ask her to pray for us.

She is the Mother of God because when Jesus was born, He was God as well as man.

25th St. Bede the Venerable

"In the midst of the Church he opened his mouth, and the Lord filled him with the spirit of wisdom and understanding and clothed him in a robe of glory, alleluia." (Entrance antiphon for today, the memorial of St. Bede) , St. Bede (673-735) is one of those saints of whom many people have heard, because of the impact that he made on the Church in England more than thirteen hundred years ago. He was educated and then lived in the neighbouring monasteries at Wearmouth and Jarrow all his life. At that time, the North East of England was a great centre of learning and there was a large collection of Christian books. All books were copied out by hand, very beautifully and were extremely valuable and rare. St. Bede was the first person in England to write a history of the Church and from it we have learned a lot about how Christianity spread across England.

However, as the antiphon says, He was filled with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding and also wrote many commentaries on the Bible, especially on the Gospels which he translated into English. Although St. Bede spent most of his life alone in his cell, He was united to Jesus Christ in love, and so he could say with Jesus, "I am not alone because the Father is with me" (Jn. 16:33). Let us say this prayer with St. Bede:

"I pray to you, noble Jesus, that as you have graciously granted me joyfully to imbibe (learn, take in) the words of your knowledge, so you will also of your bounty grant me to come at length to yourself, the fount of all wisdom, and to dwell in your presence for ever."



Bibles that St. Bede used were beautifully written and illustrated like the book on the left. Maybe you can decorate the text below which is from today's Gospel.

Jesus said,

**"You are the light
of the world."**